

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 949**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wiggins**

February 25, 1999

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An act to *amend Section 2532.6 of, and to add Section 2532.7 to, the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 44268 of, and to add Section 44250.1 to, the Education Code, relating to speech pathologists.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 949, as amended, Wiggins. Speech pathologists.

(1) Existing law establishes the qualifications for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

This bill would require the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board to deem a person who holds a valid clinical or rehabilitative services credential in speech, language, and hearing issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing or a valid certificate of clinical competence issued by the National Council on Professional Standards in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, *if deemed by the board to be of equal or higher academic standards*, to have met the educational and experience requirements for licensure as a speech-language pathologist and would require the board to accept a valid clinical or rehabilitative services credential in speech, language, and hearing issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, *if deemed by the board to be of equal or higher academic standards*, as proof of

~~current~~ compliance with fingerprint ~~clearance~~ requirements for criminal history record checks, as specified.

(2) Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue only teaching credentials and services credentials.

This bill would provide, *for the purposes of specified programs*, that the term “teacher” includes holders of services credentials who provide direct ~~instructional~~ services to pupils.

(3) Existing law sets forth the minimum requirements for a services credential in a specialization in clinical or rehabilitative services.

This bill would provide that those minimum requirements are deemed to have been met if the applicant holds a valid speech-language pathologist license or a valid certificate of clinical competence issued by the National Council on Professional Standards in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, *if deemed by the board to be of equal or higher academic standards*.

(4) Existing law provides for continuing education of speech-language pathologists and audiologists from accredited institutions of higher learning, nonprofit educational or professional association, or other entities or organizations approved by the board.

This bill would delete the reference to nonprofit educational or professional associations and instead provide for continuing education from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association among others approved by the board.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. *Section 2532.6 of the Business and*  
2 *Professions Code is amended to read:*

3 2532.6. (a) The Legislature recognizes that the  
4 education and experience requirements of this chapter  
5 constitute only minimal requirements to assure the  
6 public of professional competence. The Legislature  
7 encourages all professionals licensed and registered by

1 the board under this chapter to regularly engage in  
2 continuing professional development and learning that is  
3 related and relevant to the professions of  
4 speech-language pathology and audiology.

5 (b) After January 1, 2001, the board shall not renew any  
6 license or registration pursuant to this chapter unless the  
7 applicant certifies to the board that he or she has  
8 completed in the preceding two years not less than the  
9 minimum number of continuing professional  
10 development hours established by the board pursuant to  
11 subdivision (c) for the professional practice authorized  
12 by his or her license or registration.

13 (c) (1) The board shall prescribe the forms utilized  
14 for and the number of hours of required continuing  
15 professional development for persons licensed or  
16 registered under this chapter.

17 (2) The board shall have the right to audit the records  
18 of any applicant to verify the completion of the  
19 continuing professional development requirements.

20 (3) Applicants shall maintain records of completion of  
21 required continuing professional development  
22 coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make  
23 these records available to the board for auditing purposes  
24 upon request.

25 (d) The board shall establish exceptions from the  
26 continuing professional development requirements of  
27 this section for good cause as defined by the board.

28 (e) (1) The continuing professional development  
29 services shall be obtained from accredited institutions of  
30 higher learning, ~~nonprofit educational or professional~~  
31 ~~associations, or other entities or organizations approved~~  
32 ~~by the board, in its discretion~~ *or the American*  
33 *Speech-Language Hearing Association. Other entities or*  
34 *organizations may be approved as continuing*  
35 *professional development providers or sponsors by the*  
36 *board, in its discretion.*

37 (2) The continuing professional development services  
38 offered by these entities may, but are not required to,  
39 utilize pretesting and posttesting or other evaluation

1 techniques to measure and demonstrate improved  
2 professional learning and competency.

3 (f) The board, by regulation, shall fund the  
4 administration of this section through professional  
5 development services provider and licensing fees to be  
6 deposited in the Speech-Language Pathology and  
7 Audiology Examining Board Fund. The fees related to the  
8 administration of this section shall be sufficient to meet,  
9 but shall not exceed, the costs of administering the  
10 corresponding provisions of this section.

11 (g) The continuing professional development  
12 requirements adopted by the board shall comply with any  
13 guidelines for mandatory continuing education  
14 established by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

15 SEC. 2. Section 2532.7 is added to the Business and  
16 Professions Code, to read:

17 2532.7. (a) The board shall deem a person who holds  
18 a valid clinical or rehabilitative services credential in  
19 speech, language, and hearing issued by the Commission  
20 on Teacher Credentialing or a valid certificate of clinical  
21 competence issued by the National Council on  
22 Professional Standards in Speech Language Pathology  
23 and Audiology, *if deemed by the board to be of equal or*  
24 *higher academic standards*, to have met the educational  
25 and experience requirements set forth in Section 2532.2  
26 for a speech-language pathologist.

27 (b) The board shall accept a valid clinical or  
28 rehabilitative services credential in speech, language,  
29 and hearing issued by the Commission on Teacher  
30 Credentialing, *if deemed by the board to be of equal or*  
31 *higher academic standards*, as proof of ~~current~~  
32 ~~fingerprint clearance~~ *compliance with Section 144.*

33 ~~SEC. 2.~~

34 SEC. 3. Section 44250.1 is added to the Education  
35 Code, to read:

36 44250.1. ~~“Teacher” includes holders of services~~  
37 ~~credentials who provide direct instructional services to~~  
38 ~~pupils.~~ *For the purposes of the following programs, the*  
39 *definition of “teacher” shall include holders of service*  
40 *credentials who provide direct services to pupils and,*

1 *therefore, are eligible to participate in the following*  
2 *programs:*

3 *(a) Graduate Assumption Programs of Loans for*  
4 *Education under Article 5.5 (commencing with Section*  
5 *69618) of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5.*

6 *(b) Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language and Academic*  
7 *Development (BCLAD) under Article 4 (commencing*  
8 *with Section 44250) of Chapter 2 of Part 25 of Division 3.*

9 *(c) California Mentor Teacher Program under Article*  
10 *4 (commencing with Section 44490) of Chapter 3 of Part*  
11 *25 of Division 3.*

12 ~~SEC. 3.~~

13 ~~SEC. 4.~~ Section 44268 of the Education Code is  
14 amended to read:

15 44268. (a) The minimum requirements for a services  
16 credential in a specialization in clinical or rehabilitative  
17 services are:

18 (1) A baccalaureate degree or higher degree from an  
19 institution approved by the commission.

20 (2) A fifth year, or its equivalent, of college or  
21 university education.

22 (3) Such specialized and professional preparation as  
23 the commission may require.

24 (b) The minimum requirements set forth in  
25 subdivision (a) shall be deemed to have been met if the  
26 applicant holds a valid speech-language pathologist  
27 license issued pursuant to Chapter 5.3 (commencing with  
28 Section 2530) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions  
29 Code, *if deemed by the Commission on Teacher*  
30 *Credentialing to be of equal or higher academic*  
31 *standards*, or a valid certificate of clinical competence  
32 issued by the National Council on Professional Standards  
33 in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, *if deemed*  
34 *by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to be of*  
35 *equal or higher academic standards.*

36 (c) The services credential with a specialization in  
37 clinical or rehabilitative services shall authorize the  
38 holder to perform, at all grade levels, the service  
39 approved by the commission as designated on the  
40 credential. Clinical or rehabilitative services which may

- 1 be designated by the commission include, but need not
- 2 be limited to, speech, language, and hearing services.

